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17 November 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laos - Communist China: The Lao Army is preparing to counterattack a post near the China border in Phong Saly Province which was lost last week to Communist insurgents. The China border area, in contrast to the border with North Vietnam, has previously been quiet.

The arrival of UN official Sakari Tuomioja, a Finnish economist, in Laos on 16 November for a four-week economic and political survey will give UN Secretary General Hammarskjold time to find another more permanent representative and try to place him in position without the active opposition of the USSR.

(Page 1) (Map)

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laos

The Laotian Army is preparing a counterattack aimed at retaking Long Nai, a small post near the China border in Phong Saly Province which was occupied by a Communist insurgent band on 10 November.

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The China border area has previously been quiet, in contrast to Laos' boundary with North Vietnam. The Lao dissidents are believed to have received North Vietnamese logistic support and tactical guidance, and North Vietnamese paramilitary elements may have participated occasionally in insurgent attacks on government posts.

(UN Secretary General Hammarskjold plans to establish a permanent personal representative in the area in two stages. The first stage will be a four-week economic and political survey by Sakari Tuomioja--currently the executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and a former Finnish prime minister, foreign minister, and ambassador to Great Britain. The four-week period will allow Hammarskjold time to find another longer term representative and try to place him in Laos without the open opposition of the USSR.)

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